

## CO1978OPE01

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The main task of the international organization G.C.I.R.C. (Groupe Consultatif International De Recherches Sur Le Colza) is to encourage research on rape and cooperation between active scientists from various countries in this field of research. An important part of this work of the organization is to initiate and assist in the organization of international rape congresses in various countries. Such congresses are to be organized every fourth year. The fourth congress was held in Giessen (Germany) in 1974 (earlier congresses in Poland, France and Canada) and the fifth congress was held last year in Malmö, Sweden on June 12-16. This congress was held under the patronage of his Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf and was opened by His Royal Highness Prince Bertil. The Town Hall of Malmö and the neighbouring, historically interesting building, the Company House (Kompanihuset), offered excellent facilities for the congress.

In all 400 scientists from 27 countries participated in the congress. Three days were devoted to lectures and discussions, in all 150 lectures, divided into 10 sessions, dealing with various fields of problems. One day was assigned for an excursion to the Plant Breeding Institutes at Svalöv and Landskrona or to the extraction and margarine factories at Karlshamn and Helsingborg. The last day was devoted to a visit to the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences at Ultuna, Uppsala.

Some special arrangements were also made for the participants. One of these was a visit to Malmö Museum, where the town of Malmö was the host for a highly appreciated entertainment program.

The proceedings, which for practical reasons are divided into two volumes, contain all speeches and lectures given at the opening meeting and 10 sessions (in some cases only summaries have been available).

The Swedish Oil Plant Growers' Association (SOC) and the Swedish Oil Extraction Company (EXAB) have defrayed a printing of the proceeding volumes. They also shared the main responsibility of the whole conference, economically and as organizers. A special allowance for the printing was obtained from The Swedish Oilseed Trading Association (SOI).

To all these organizations, as well as to others having contributed to the realization of the congress, the Government, the Board of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and the Swedish Farmers' Organization (SLR), I want to convey my warmest thanks.

I also owe the presidency of the Scientific Committee, the chairman Professor E. Åkerberg, the vice chairman Dr. Ragnar Ohlson and the secretary Dr. Ove Hall, my deepest gratitude for valuable assistance at the compilation of these proceedings.

In the summing up of the proceedings the congress has been described as a milestone in the history of rape growing and rape research. It is my sincere hope that these volumes will justify this judgement and be of some use also for those interested in these problems but unable to participate in the congress.

Copies of the proceedings can be obtained after request to Dr. Gösta Andersson, Swedish Seed Association, S-268 00 Svalöv. The price for one copy is 100 Swedish crowns.

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